

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 101367
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /075 R

DRAFTED BY L:SMSCHWEBEL;L/UNA:SRBOND;DPSTEWART:SIS
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES

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O R 202012Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 101367

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, SZ

SUBJECT: ENTITLEMENT OF NON-MEMBERS TO ADDRESS UNGA
PLENARY

1. THE QUESTION OF SWITZERLAND AND THE HOLY SEE ADDRESSING
PLENARY SESSION OF UNSSOD IN GENERAL DEBATE HAS ARISEN AND
GIVES US PAUSE. WE QUESTION WHETHER THEIR DOING SO WOULD
ACCORD WITH UNGA RULES AND PRACTICE (WHICH, HOWEVER, IS NOT
UNIFORM) AND FEAR THAT, IF THEY WERE PERMITTED TO DO SO,
FURTHER UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT WOULD BE SET TO THE BENEFIT
OF ENTITIES WHOSE PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL DEBATE WOULD BE
LESS WELCOME TO US.

2. RULE 68 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S RULE OF PROCEDURE
PROVIDES THAT REPRESENTATIVES MAY ADDRESS PLENARY SESSION
WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PERMISSION. THE RULES AS A WHOLE
INDICATE THAT "REPRESENTATIVES" MEANS REPRESENTATIVES OF
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MEMBERS (AND OF THE SECRETARIAT), NOT OF OTHER ENTITIES.

3. VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAVE INVITED
THE OAS, ARAB LEAGUE, OAU, EEC, MCEA AND PLO TO TAKE PART
IN "SESSIONS" OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. AN OFFICIAL NOTE
FOR THE USE OF THE SECRETARIAT PROVIDES THAT THESE ORGANI-
ZATIONS ARE THEREFORE "ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE AS

OBSERVERS IN BOTH PLENARY AND MAIN COMMITTEE MEETINGS,
ALTHOUGH IN PRACTICE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PLENARY IS
LIMITED TO SEATING AND NOT EXTENDED TO MAKING STATEMENTS."

4. RESOLUTION 3210 (XXXIX) INVITES THE PLO "TO PARTICI-
PATE IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE
QUESTION OF PALESTINE IN PLENARY MEETINGS." THIS
EXCEPTIONAL RIGHT IS CONFINED TO THE QUESTION OF
PALESTINE; IN OUR VIEW, IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE RIGHT OF
THE PLO TO TAKE PART IN GENERAL DEBATE OR TO ADDRESS
PLENARY ON ANY SUBJECT. (WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THE
PLO WAS ACCORDED A RIGHT OF REPLY ON PALESTINE IN THE
GENERAL DEBATE LAST YEAR AND WE RECORDED AN OBJECTION.)

5. WE ARE DISINCLINED TO WIDEN THESE AND SOME OTHER
ARGUABLE EXCEPTIONS BY PERMITTING SWITZERLAND AND THE
HOLY SEE TO TAKE PART IN THE GENERAL DEBATE OF UNSSOD.
IF, DESPITE OUR VIEWS, THEY WERE TO BE INVITED, PRESUMABLY
THIS WOULD REQUIRE A RESOLUTION OR RESOLUTIONS BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD BE EXCEPTIONS TO
THE RULES. WHILE THIS WOULD BE BETTER THAN INVITING THEM
IN DISREGARD OF THE RULES, IT IS NOT THE OPTIMUM COURSE
BOTH BECAUSE OF THE PRECEDENT FOR WIDER INVITATIONS THAT
WOULD BE SET AND BECAUSE IT IS UNDESIRABLE TO SET ASIDE
THE RULES BY SIMPLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION. IF THE
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RULES ARE TO BE CHANGED, THEY SHOULD BE PURSUANT TO THE
METHOD OF AMENDMENT PRESCRIBED BY THE RULES.

6. WE NOTE FROM BERN'S 1783 THAT SWITZERLAND WILL NOT
SEND A HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO UNSSOD BUT WILL BE
REPRESENTED FROM ITS UN OBSERVER MISSION. WE WONDER IF
PRESSURE FOR SWITZERLAND'S ADDRESSING PLENARY IS NOT
LOCALLY GENERATED. CHRISTOPHER

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ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-03 /007 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:DAVE MACUK

APPROVED BY IO/SA:TBROWN

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R 221940Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 101367

FOL RPT STATE 101367 SENT ACTION USUN NEW YORK INFO BERN DTD 20 APR 8

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 1
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE101367
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMSCHWEBEL;L/UNA:SRBOND;DPSTEWART:SIS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780169-0924
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2900344
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENTITLEMENT OF NON-MEMBERS TO ADDRESS UNGA PLENARY
TAGS: PORG, PARM, SZ, US, VT, UNGA
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/665679aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014